Coverage of protest meeting against the murder of Safdar Hasmi

310. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Calcutta Doordarshan authorities turned down the request of the representatives of the Drama Club and Art and Literary Society, Jadavpur University to cover the protest meeting against the murder of Playright and actor Safdar Hasmi held at the Jadavpur University on the 10th January, 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for not covering the meeting by Doordarshan in which dramatist, Vice-Chancellor, film director, singer, actors and prominent intellectuals took part;

(d) whether any action has been taken against the guilty officials in this regard;

(e) if so, the nature of action taken; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A news items on the protest meeting by the Jadavpur University Drama Club was telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Appointment of tea blending Contractor NCCF in Guwahati

311. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rusaka Tea Warehouse, Guwahati was appointed as Tea blending and storage Contractor by NCCF during 1978 with the approval of the then R.M. (East) and Deputy Manager (Tea).

(b) how much total tea was blended by the said contractor, yearwise and what was the percentage of blend excess;

(c) whether it is a fact that subsequently appointed tea blending contractors were able to record better percentage of blend excess; if so, who were those and what was their blend gain ratio; and

(d) whether only one Asstt. Manager was held responsible for mishap in tea trade in 1979 and no action was taken against DM (Tea) and RM (East); if so, the reason therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) NCCF have reported that M|s. Rusaka Tea Warehouse, Guwahati was appointed as Tea blending and storage contractor during 1980-81 with the approval of the competant authority in the Head Office and that the firm, blended total quantity of 716.3 MTs of tea during that year resulting in 0.5 per cent excess percentage of blend.

(c) No contractor for the purpose was appointed by the NCCF from 1981-82 onwards, since the NCCF itself started its own unit. It had only appointed a labour contractor for blending of tea in which the percentage blended excess was 0.9 per cent.

(d) The services of Asstt. Manager (TEA) at Guwahati were terminated in 1981 for some other reasons connected with the tea trade from 1977-78.

Despatch of non-controlled textile to Assam State Federation (STATEFED) by NCCF

312. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-controlled textile stocks worth Rs. 2.5